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Message Text

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70
ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 /029 W
---------- 015013
R 232135Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7262

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI ES
SUBJ: END-USE CHECK ON SHIPMENT OF 1,800,000 CAL. .38 EMPTY PRIMED CASES, AND 230,000 CENTERFIRE PRIMERS TO JOSE ELAS CHAHIN

REF: STATE 13988

1. ECONOFF MET WITH JOSE ELIAS CHAHIN AND HIS LOCAL IMPORTER JIMMY GLASER JANUARY 22 AND DISCUSSED MUNITIONS IMPORTATION DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. DEPARTMENT (MC) WILL HAVE FILE ON CHAHIN (SAN SALVADOR 1578 OF AUGUST 17, 1970) AND HE IS WELL ESTABLISHED, GOES LICENSED, MANUFACTURER AND DISTRIBUTOR OF AMMUNITION IN EL SALVADOR. ECON OFF SAY GOES MINISTRY OF DEFENSE APPROVALS TO CHAHIN FOR IMPORTS OF .38 CAL. EMPTY PRIMED CARTRIDGES WHICH ADDED TO 1.1 MILLION. CHAHIN AND GLASER SAID U.S. SOURCE USUALLY SHIPS BETWEEN 200,000 AND 400,000 A MONTH AND THE MOD CUSTOMARILY ISSUED IMPORT PERMITS ON A MONTHLY BASIS FOR 200,000; HINCE THER IS NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE 1.8 MILLION (WHICH NUMBER OBTAINS PRIME DISCOUNTS) AND OUTSTANDING CUMULATIVE IMPORT PERMITS. CHAHIN OPERATES A PLANT AT WHICH THESE IMPORTS FEED HIS U.S. ORIGIN LOADING MACHINE. HIS SALES, TO AUTHORIZED LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS AN ESTIMATED 200 TO 300 THOUSAND .38 CALIBER SHELLS TO THE NATIONAL POLICE, ARE ALMOST 100 PERCENT WITHIN EL SALVADOR. HE SAID HIS ANNUAL SALES, INCLUDING ALL CALIBERS, APPROXIMATE 4. MILLION CARTRIDGES. IMPORT PERMITS INCLUDE BULK LEAD AND
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POWDER WHICH IS IMPORTED FROM THE U.S.

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2. GLASER SAID THAT HIS U.S. SUPPLIER HAD REPORTED THAT DUE TO DELAYS IN OBTAINING MC LICENSE HE HAS SUSPENDED SHIPMENTS; CHAHIN REPORTED SUSPENSION OF HIS LOCAL LOADING OPERATION FOR LACK OF CARTRIDGES. APPARENTLY MC LICENSES HAVE BEEN ROUTINELY GRANTED BETWEEN AUGUST 1970 AND THE PRESENT.

C. EMBASSY BELIEVES CHAHIN IS OPERATING LEGALLY, DEALING IN AMOUNTS COMMENSURATE WITH THE LOCAL MARKET AND SEES NO REASON TO DANY THE LICENSE.
CAMPBELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMMUNITION, SALES, END USE CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANSA00293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D750026-0584
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750126/aaaaawxo.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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